

Ag Conference Call Notes
Thursday October 19, 2006

Present: Tom McCarthy, Gene Tinker, Michelle Johnson, Cindy Martens, Ken Hessenius, Dan Olson, Ted Petersen, Josh Sobaski, Ryan Stouder, Randy Clark, Karen Grimes, Bob Palla

Revision from last months notes:

DNR Evaluation Rule was briefly discussed. Questions were asked regarding the designated areas. Use the coverage on the AFO siting maps, your knowledge of the area, Sportsmen's Atlas, or if something is pointed out to you by a concerned citizen. Look most specifically at the site location and secondarily at the manure application fields.

In karst areas –

For evaluating the potential site of a structure: Use the determinations provided by the AFO Siting Atlas map, including "potential karst" and/or correspondence with IGS.

For evaluating MMP fields: Use the areas on the interactive AFO Siting Atlas map that are shown as "karst (within 1,000 ft. of a sinkhole)," unless you have some other knowledge of karst in that area.

Statement of Intent for Commercial Fertilizer (SOI) Gene stated that there has been some confusion with producers regarding the SOI. Only one SOI needs to be signed for each land owner. The intended amount of commercial fertilizer application can be amended in the records on site, but another SOI doesn't need to be signed. The reasons for changing an intended application would be documented by soil, stalk or manure testing.

Stormwater Inspection Forms When doing a stormwater inspection be sure to put the DNR Authorization Number on the inspection form so that Joe or Ruth can match the inspection to the correct site.

Karst-If a site is in potential karst and borings/test pits are done that show the site is not in karst, then it is no longer potential karst. If MMP fields are in karst look at it as a trigger for the DNR Evaluation Rule, but if there are no specific risks or extraordinary circumstances the fields should be acceptable.

| **Sinkholes**-FO#1 has a site that built less than 1,000 feet from a known sinkhole. This sinkhole is crossable, but there is no distinction between crossable and noncrossable sinkholes. This facility is a chicken facility with dry manure. FO#1 would like a determination on whether the barn is a production facility or a manure storage facility (or both). It also needs to be determined if this facility should receive just an NOV or be required to build secondary containment. Randy subsequently checked the Program Implementation Guidance (PIG) pertaining to secondary containment for dry manure. It provides that the secondary containment structure need not be designed by a P.E. and must contain only 10% of the stored manure. However, the PIG does not in any way indicate that secondary containment is not required for dry manure or if the sinkhole is upgradient from the confinement structure. Randy also points out that the statutory separation distance regarding sinkholes applies to "confinement feeding operation structures" which by definition includes both a confinement building and a manure storage structure.

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Site Survey Form- will once again be revised by Michelle to clarify for the engineers whether the Departmental Evaluation Rule has been done and is acceptable or whether it needs to go on for further review. Bob asked that specialists get the site survey reports done as soon as possible and sent to the review engineer even if the Departmental Evaluation is not complete. Since the rule went into effect site survey reports are taking too long in getting to the engineers. (The change was distributed to the FO's on 10/23/06 by Cindy.)

Soil Sampling-samples shall represent no more than 10 acres. If a field has 70.5 acres it needs 8 samples. If there are 83 acres, it needs 9 samples.

If a site has fields that do not have correct soil sampling they must leave those fields off of the P-index based MMP until correct/complete sampling is done. They **can not** list these fields and put a zero in the planned application column, even if they have “extra” fields. Once correct sampling is done they may add these fields to the plan. **Soil Sampling (cont.)** Facilities submitting an “original” P-index based MMP have up to one year to get correct soil sampling done. These would include new sites, expanding sites and sites with new owners.

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Departmental Evaluation Rule- Poultry facilities using 200A should be evaluated for the site location. Fields can not be evaluated as manure (soil conditioner) application is covered under 200A or Department of Ag rules. Sow units adding space only should be evaluated for the site location and the MMP fields.

Early Submittal of P-index based plans- If a plan is submitted in June, but the due date for the facility is not until October that plan should be evaluated by the AA at the time of submittal and given an incomplete letter if something is missing. The AA **should not** wait until October to evaluate the plan nor should they give the facility until October to get the corrections done. The facility should be reminded that their 4 year cycle will go by the June submittal date, as the rules state that a complete P-index based MMP shall be submitted to the department once every four years. If they wait to submit in October of the 4th year it will be over 4 years between complete plan submittals.

Revised Construction Permit- Karen reminded us that there will be a revised construction permit put on the web this week for both open and confined facilities. The DNR example Aerial Photo Map showing separation distances for construction or expansion of confinements will be included.

MAC Question- If an applicator misses an entire 3 year cycle of training he can then be recertified as a new applicator without taking the make up exam. Staff can look this up on the MAC database which should be complete by the end of October.

AFO Database- There will be a meeting with Wayne G., the supervisors and the AA’s to discuss the database. They will be discussing the problems associated with the database, wants and needs. It will be a renewed effort to forward on the problems and shortcomings that are faced in the field. If you have particular issues to be discussed, please forward them on to Ken for the meeting.

Opacity/Incinerators- Some of the offices are seeing problems with incinerators for dead animals. The opacity must be less than 40% when in operation. If you are not a certified smoke reader you may still issue an NOV for excess opacity if it is clearly over 40%. Please take good notes and photos and speak to the certified smoke reader in your office about it. If you must go further than an NOV or have further complaints make sure that a certified reader goes out to the site with you.

SRF Funding- Your offices may be receiving MMP’s for SAFO’s that are getting SRF funding. These sites must have an MMP. There will be no fees associated with these MMP’s. Please add them to the AFO database, zero for a due date and make a file. Comment from Chuck Corell: Iowa Ag Development Authority will be reviewing the MMPs we require from SRF applicants. Most of the SRF loans will be for open feedlots but loans for confinements are not impossible.

NPDES Permits- Karen will be putting out a reminder news release regarding the fees for NPDES permits. They are 5 year permits and those that are up for renewal are getting a letter from the DNR. We will also ask that the cattlemen put this in their magazine/newsletters as well. The application fee for renewal is \$85; the annual fee is \$300.

Master Matrix-Ken reported that during the supervisors meeting last week it was decided that the Master Matrix is truly a county tool and the field office staff is spending way too much time on this preparing for and during the site surveys. The supervisors and Barb Lynch decided that the staff should discontinue their involvement in the Master Matrix. Staff can still answer questions that may arise during the site survey, but review of the matrix is the counties' responsibility. Counties will be notified, by letter, of the change in procedure.

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Please mark your calendars for the next Ag Conference Call- Wednesday November 15th at 9 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Martens 10/23/06.